

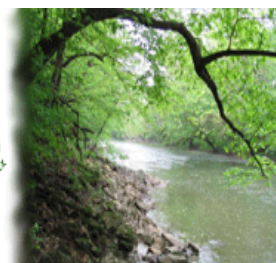


## Choose Environmental Excellence

PO Box 8368  
Springfield, MO 65802

[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/showmeyards](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/showmeyards)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/cee](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/cee)

OzarksEnvironment.com



[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

This website includes links to area agencies, clubs, and organizations offering environmental and conservation educational resources.

Postings for this website includes events, volunteer opportunities, and much, much more.

To post your organization's next event, e-mail

[blucks@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:blucks@springfieldmo.gov)



# Environmental Excellence

VOLUME 10; NO. 2 FALL 2009

## Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence Steering Committee

**Barbara Lucks**  
City of Springfield  
Solid Waste Mgt. Division  
**Kevin Gipson**  
Springfield/Greene County  
Health Department  
**Marie Steinwachs**  
University of Missouri  
Outreach and Extension  
**Ryan Mooney**  
Springfield Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
**Terry Whaley**  
Ozark Greenways, Inc.  
**Laurie Duncan**  
The Discovery Center  
**Chuck Kroeger**  
Foth and Van Dyke  
**Dave Fraley**  
City Utilities of Springfield  
**Dave Coonrod**  
Greene County Commission  
**Loring Bullard**  
Watershed Committee  
of the Ozarks  
**Cindy Garner**  
Missouri Department of  
Conservation  
**Francis Skalicky**  
Missouri Department of  
Conservation  
**DeDe Vest**  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
**Jon Schimpf**  
**James River**  
Basin Partnership  
**Becky Fay**  
University of Missouri  
Outreach and Extension  
**Tim Smith**  
Greene County  
Resource Management  
**Randy Lyman**  
City of Springfield  
Sanitary Services  
**Robert Hamilton**  
Solid Waste Management  
District "O"  
**Doug Neidigh**  
Ozarks Clean Air Alliance  
Drury University—Center for  
Sustainable Solutions  
**Ann Hall**  
**Gary Deaver**  
**Rena Bass**  
**Lynn Feagan**



## \$\$ Stimulus Money \$\$

The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It is an effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.

The Act is a response to an economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

*Locally*, funding is available through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 as well as the Department of Energy. Below is a sampling of funds Springfield and Greene County will be receiving as well as plans on how they will be used.

### City of Springfield Public Works Department—Wastewater Treatment Plants

**Project #1:** Spring Branch Trunk Sewer

**Funding:** \$3.0 Million ARRA Grant

**Description:** Construction of almost 2 miles of 36" sewer from Airport Lift station to the Sac River Line near the NW Treatment Plant. Benefits are removal of lift station that has been high maintenance and a reliability problem and lower power costs; additional capacity as well.

**Project #2:** Ozone Generator Replacement at Southwest Plant

**Funding:** \$13 million ARRA Direct Loan  
\$1.2 million left over SRF Funds

**Description:** Project will replace aging equipment and increase capacity of disinfection by about 50% and will potentially increase wet weather capacity of the plant by as much as 30%. Project will also reduce energy consumption because of the upgrade in equipment and technology.

### City of Springfield Public Works Department

**Project:** 4 Sub-Projects

**Funding:** \$1,664,600—Department of Energy Stimulus Grant

**Description:** 4 Sub-Projects Include:

1. Compilation of "energy report cards" and audits for all City-owned buildings maintained through Municipal Facilities section of Public Works Operations. Budget amount: \$19,635.00. This Energy Reduction Study will give us a more focused strategy toward reducing energy consumption in City buildings, and will be aimed primarily at lighting, HVAC, and building envelope.
2. Retrofit Busch building HVAC system with more efficient components/systems, including boilers, chillers (ready completed), air handlers, pumps, and controls. Budget amount: \$1,122,183.00. This should reduce energy usage at the Busch building by 243,000 kWh annually, and reduce gas usage by 12,000 Therms per year.

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- 3. Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program administered by City Utilities\*. Budget amount \$400,000, plus an estimated \$119,000 from City Utilities.
- 4. Retrofit Historic City Hall HVAC with more efficient HVAC components, primarily air handlers and controls. Budget amount \$122,782.00.

\* Through this program, CU will provide an incentive to customers to retire older, energy-wasting refrigerators and freezers, and will ensure that the appliances are recycled in an environmentally sound manner. In separate grant action, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$2,878,526 to CU for improvements in the Paratransit fleet and bus maintenance facilities, along with \$41,383 for natural gas fire safety education and training.

**Greene County, Missouri**

**Project:** Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

**Funding:** \$433,700

**Description:** Greene County will install energy efficient HVAC systems in the certified buildings, as well as use energy efficient and recycled materials to maximize energy performance. The Archives Building and the Public Safety Coordination Center are the two facilities where the grant will be implemented.

**Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions/Ozarks Clean Air Alliance**

**Project #1:** ARRA National Metropolitan Clean Diesel Subgrant

**Funding:** \$702,357

**Description:** The Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions at Drury University was awarded the funding on behalf of the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance to administer to Southwest Missouri school districts for projects to reduce diesel emissions from school buses. The schools participating in the grant include Branson, Cassville, Crane, Fair Grove, Fair Play, Joplin, Neosho, Republic, Strafford and Willard. The project will replace 13 older buses with newer, cleaner, buses and retrofit 98 buses with cleaner emissions devices.

**Project #2:** ARRA State Clean Diesel Subgrant

**Funding:** \$412,441

**Description:** The Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions (OCSS) at Drury University was awarded the funding on behalf of the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance to administer the project in Southwest Missouri. The project was to administer diesel emission reduction projects throughout the Springfield and Southwest Missouri area. The project will specifically target the following counties: Cedar, Polk, Dallas, Barton, Dade, Greene, Webster, Christian, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Lawrence, Barry, Stone and Taney. OCSS published grant requests for proposals from private and public diesel fleets in the region.

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A random drawing of the proposals was held in October. Three public fleets and 11 private fleets were awarded funding for projects that will reduce diesel pollution from their vehicles.

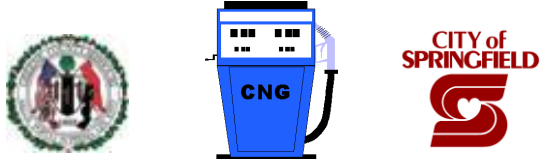
**Ozark Greenways, Inc.**

**Project:** Frisco Highline Trail-Surface Improvements.

**Funding:** Greene County Section \$222,334 / Polk County Section \$168,000

**Description:** To make surface and asphalt improvements to the trail surface for safety, and encouraged increased multi-uses for both counties. To develop a new trailhead in Polk County.

**Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station Project**



On October 1, 2009, Congressman Roy Blunt announced that the U.S. House of Representatives had adopted the Energy and Water Appropriations Conference report for 2010, which includes a centralized government Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station in Springfield. Congressman Blunt secured \$700,000 as a first installment for an estimated \$2.2 million project. The Senate has since adopted the measure, as well.

The project is envisioned to provide for both slow and fast fill fueling stations and conversions of gasoline-fueled vehicles to run on CNG. The equipment to be converted can come from the City, and other public agencies, such as Greene County, City Utilities, MoDot, Springfield R-12 and Missouri State University.

CNG is a clean burning, high octane fuel that produces 60%-90% less smog producing pollutants and 30%-40% less greenhouse gas emissions than either gasoline or diesel fuels, thus providing for cleaner air to breathe. In addition, CNG's clean burning properties help improve engine life. The use of CNG will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of fuel as the North American continent has an abundance of natural gas reserves.

A meeting to discuss project goals with prospective stakeholders is scheduled for 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference rm., Busch Municipal Bldg., 840 Boonville Avenue.

For more information, feel free to contact Phil Broyles with the City of Springfield Public Works Department at:

864-1950 or e-mail at:  
[pbroyles@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:pbroyles@springfieldmo.gov)

**When Times Are Tough,  
The Tough Keep Going!**



In the face of the severe economic downturn and record low recycling markets, Springfield's recycling "infrastructure" remains solid. Local processors are continuing to remain optimistic – actually expanding services and facilities.

**The Computer Recycling Center** has broken ground on a major expansion of their facility. Their current 4,000 square foot building will be joined by the 2800 square foot addition, with expected completion near Christmas of this year. The additional space will enable them to expand recycling services to community, including taking glass in larger volumes and increasing the volumes of Styrofoam he can accept, including packing peanuts plus sheet/molded Styrofoam packing materials. The Center is also researching other items and markets.

**Midwest Fibre** has expanded their services to include single stream separation facilities to accommodate recently enhanced curbside recycling programs.

**New American Recycling Company**, a division of Greenway Recycling, Inc. has added 9000 sq. feet of floor space and a single stream sort line, as well as expanding it services to further support the City's plastics recycling program.

**Automated Waste** now joins **Allied Waste** and **WCA** in offering single-stream/commingled curbside recycling services which includes a greater variety of materials being accepted at the curb.

**Nestle Purina PetCare** reports they now have the capability of accepting cardboard for the manufacture of their animal litter/bedding products. They also report that the addition of their free document shredding services has been very well received.

New American Recycling—417-862-9995  
Midwest Fibre—417-862-1976  
Automated Waste—417-725-4872  
Computer Recycling Center—417-866-2588  
[www.computerrecyclingcenter.org](http://www.computerrecyclingcenter.org)  
Allied Waste—417-865-1717  
[www.disposal.com](http://www.disposal.com)  
WCA—417-831-3195  
[www.wcawaste.com](http://www.wcawaste.com)  
Nestle Purina PetCare—866-7104  
[www.biggreenbin.com](http://www.biggreenbin.com)

**The Newly Updated  
“Guide to Recycling”  
Now Available!**



The City of Springfield's "Guide to Recycling" has recently been updated offering both increased locations as well as additional items, now with more than 120 locations accepting a wide variety of materials for recycling.

To view the updated "Guide to Recycling" or to download your own copy, visit:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling) or  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

**LEAF DISPOSAL UPDATE**



Beginning November 4th and ending December 6<sup>th</sup>, the City of Springfield's Yardwaste Recycling Center and Lone Pine Recycling Center will be open on Sundays from 1pm-5pm.

Winter hours for the Yardwaste Recycling Center and the Lone Pine and Franklin Avenue Recycling Centers will begin Tuesday, November 3, 2009 (the first Tuesday after the end of Daylight Savings Time). These facilities will be open to accept yardwaste and brush from 8am – 5pm., Tuesday – Saturday, with the exception of the Sundays noted above. They are closed on Mondays.

Winter loading hours for mulch and compost products, which are available for sale at the Yardwaste Recycling Center, will be from 9am – 4pm, Tuesday – Saturday, and from 1pm – 4pm on the Sundays mentioned above. Please call the Recycling Hotline at 864-1904 for current availability of these products.

\*Residents are reminded that City ordinance prohibits dumping of leaves and yardwaste into city streets, ditches, waterways, etc.

For more information, log onto:  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)

**FALL HAS ARRIVED!**

Start a Compost Pile; Clean out the Garage.  
Download your very own Fall Checklist at:

[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)





## Holiday Waste Reduction Tips



As the holiday season approaches, statistics show that solid waste (trash) generation skyrockets. The City of Springfield's Solid Waste Management Division has a number of suggestions to reduce holiday waste.

- Food waste during the period between Halloween and New Years, is the highest of any time during the year.
  - Before you prepare the holiday meals, take a head count and adjust the amount of food accordingly to avoid waste.
  - Holiday cooks are also advised to use extra care to properly dispose of grease generated by large holiday meals so that it doesn't create problems in the City's sewer lines.
  - Be creative with left-overs.
- Holiday cooks are also advised to use extra care to properly dispose of grease generated by large holiday meals so that it doesn't create problems in the City's sewer lines. Never pour grease down the drain. Even if you run hot water down the line, the grease cools and solidifies as it moves through the sewer line. Hot water will not solve the problem!
  - Pour grease into a metal or glass container and place in the trash. You can also line your container by pouring cooled grease into a plastic bag. You may also use a heat-resistant liner.
  - A lid is required on a container holding liquid grease. Containers that contain solid grease do not need a lid.
  - Scrape food and grease from dishes and pans prior to washing. This type of waste also can be placed in the trash.
  - To receive a copy of a brochure on "fat-free sewers", contact: Randy Lyman, Public Works Department, Sanitary Services Division, 864-1921.
- Reduce and reuse wrapping
  - Make the wrapping a part of the gift; for example, wrap a kitchen utensil in a new kitchen towel.
  - When shopping, consolidate purchases into one big bag, rather than getting a new bag at each stop.
  - Decorate brown paper sacks as wrap using rubber stamps, recycled Christmas cards, or drawings.
  - Consider using paper that can easily be recycled, such as old comic sections, old maps, children's art work.
- Save gift bags, boxes, bows and ribbons for reuse next year.
- Recycle wrap and packing materials
  - Paperboard (example: wrapping paper rolls and cardboard) are easily recycled at the City of Springfield's Recycling Centers. Christmas gift wrap also is accepted - no plastic and no foil. Call the Recycling Hotline (864-1904) or visit the City's web site for locations and hours of operation ([www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)).
  - Styrofoam packing peanuts can be recycled in several locations in Springfield. Call the City's Recycling Hotline (864-1904) or visit the website listed above for information.
- If you're replacing old, used items with new ones, donate clothes and useable household items to local charities.
- Reduce holiday toxics
  - Do not burn wrapping paper - the colored paper contains lead and other heavy metals.
  - Make sure your home is "childproof" when young visitors come: put cleaners and pesticides out of reach; don't leave alcohol, perfume or after-shave under the tree.
  - Do not use imported, decorative candles that emit black smoke - this often indicates the presence of lead in the wick.
  - Bubble lights can contain a toxic liquid; bulbs can cause burns - don't leave young children alone with decorated trees.
  - Mistletoe is highly toxic to children and pets - use artificial rather than the real thing. Other plants with toxic or irritating characteristics include: amaryllis (bulb), balsam, cedar, Christmas cactus, Christmas rose, elderberry, English Ivy, holly, juniper, narcissus (bulb) and several types of lily.
- Reduce litter
  - Make sure your trash is bagged securely so it doesn't blow out of trash-collection vehicles.
  - Did Santa leave you a new computer or other electronic surprise - don't throw the old one in the trash - have it recycled and disposed of properly at the Computer Recycling Center - 866-2588.



More information on recycling, **including Christmas trees**, is available at the City's Recycling Hotline at 864-1904 or on the City Web site: [www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling).



  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Recycling Hotline  
864-1904



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## It's Grant Time Again!



When the leaves start to fall, it must be time for ...recycling grants? Absolutely! The 2010 grant cycle for Solid Waste District "O" is underway, and we are now accepting applications for District Grants designed to provide or enhance recycling and/or waste reduction services and programs. Projects eligible for funding must:

1. Be located within our five-county service region—Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk, and Webster.
2. Provide safe, reliable, and cost effective (efficient/affordable) recycling and/or waste reduction services/programs.
3. Meet all other requirements from Solid Waste Management District "O" and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Management Program as outlined in the application package.

Applications will be accepted until noon through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, so if you have a recycling/waste diversion project in mind, contact us right away! For more information, contact:

Rhonda Gulley-Administrative Assistant, District "O"  
417-868-4197

### Or write to:

Solid Waste District "O"  
Attn: 2008 Grant Application Request  
940 Boonville Ave Room 305  
Springfield, MO 65802

***\*Applications should be submitted to this same address and will NOT be accepted via fax or e-mail.***

## City of Springfield Wastewater Treatment Facilities Earn Performance Award



The city of Springfield has earned a Gold Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for its wastewater treatment facilities. The two Facilities - the Southwest and Northwest Treatment Plants - achieved 100 percent compliance with their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for 2008. On average, more than 39 million gallons of wastewater are collected and treated everyday in Springfield.

For more information, log onto:  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/sanitary](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/sanitary)

## Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods Workshops



The popular Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods 2009 workshops drew nearly 100 lawn care professionals and over 80 homeowners.

Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods is an educational program designed to raise awareness about the role urban storm water runoff plays in the water quality of nearby streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes. Through voluntary educational activities, SMY&N offers environmentally responsible alternatives to traditional lawn care and construction practices that contribute to the runoff of contaminants and excess nutrients. SMY&N also recognizes and commends individuals and professionals who put the SMY&N techniques into practice - homeowners can earn an attractive yard sign and professionals can become certified. SMY&N is a part of the [Choose Environmental Excellence](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/community/smy/) program.

Springfield was pioneer in developing the Show Me Yards and Neighborhoods program in Missouri, which originated in Florida several years ago in response to polluted runoff problems in the Everglades. The Springfield SMY&N has been used as a model by Columbia and Jefferson City to develop programs to address runoff concerns in those cities.

The program has made an impact in Greene County and Springfield. Nearly 100 companies, institutions, and organizations have completed the Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods Lawn Care Professionals Certification Program. Homeowners who participate in practices that reduce the impact of storm water runoff join the "Show Me Yard" program.

Those interested in the Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods program or for a listing of Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods Professionals, please call:

Barbara Lucks at 864-2006 or visit:

<http://www.springfieldmo.gov/community/smy/>.

## Tips for Preparing your Garden for Winter

### Test Your Soil

To ensure your soil is ready for next spring, have it tested to determine which nutrients are missing.

### Plant Bulbs Indoors and Out

Provided your ground is not covered with snow, there's still time to plant bulbs for a spring show.

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## City of Springfield Storm Water Services Update



### Parks Waterways to Get Some TLC

Several of Springfield's favorite parks were founded along the banks of the City's streams and lakes which provide much of the character of these special places. Over time however, these streams and lakes have become plagued with bank erosion, algae and other issues in need of attention.

The 5-year ¼ cent Parks/Waterways sales tax approved by voters in 2006 provides funding to address these issues as well as other water quality issues in the watersheds of these streams and lakes. In 2010-2011 improvements will be completed at Fassnight, Doling, Sequiota, and Close Parks, and Dickerson Park Zoo to address the condition of the waterways, construct rain gardens and other storm water practices, and provide improved park amenities and passive education opportunities. Concept plans can be viewed at:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater).

### Another Storm Drain Becomes Art

Knial Piper and his brother Keaton Piper are at it again, creating another unique painting that helps to educate the public on storm water. Knial first contacted the City with this idea in 2008 and completed his first painting "Water Clean=Tree Green" on Jefferson at Park Central East. This time he is joined by his younger brother Keaton in their collaborative work "Don't Clog the Frog" on South Avenue at McDaniel. Photos can be viewed at:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater).



## Water Education for Teachers (WET) Update



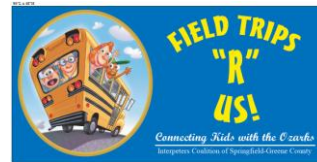
Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) has had a successful 2009 with several workshops offered around the state. In southwest Missouri and the Springfield area, WET workshops were held in April 2009 at the Conservation Nature Center and October 2009 at the Christian County Soil and Water Conservation District office. The WET workshops were well attended by area teachers and environmental educators.

Springfield Public Schools also hosted a Project workshop this year, and a short session using the secondary Project WET publication *Healthy Water, Healthy People* was offered at their professional development days this fall.

In addition, Project WET supports county Soil and Water Conservation Districts as they sponsor the Envirothon competition for high school students at the local level and at state competition. Envirothon is composed of 5 areas—Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, Aquatics and a Current Issue. This year's topic for the Current Issue and for the students' Oral Presentations is about both water quality and water quantity issues surrounding groundwater.

Plans for the next upcoming Project WET workshop in April 2010 are underway—it will be held on the north side of Springfield/Greene County. Another workshop in Harrison, Arkansas in June 2010 will be a joint project between Missouri Project WET and Arkansas Project WET. If you would like more information about upcoming workshops or Project WET, please contact Erica Cox at [EricaCox@missouristate.edu](mailto:EricaCox@missouristate.edu) or 417-836-4337.

### Sixth Annual FreeWheelin' Friday



FreeWheelin' Friday is an annual "field trip for teachers" event sponsored by the Interpreter's Coalition of Greene County. Participants are transported to various educational sites throughout the area and receive information about informal learning opportunities that can be utilized to supplement classroom curriculum. The day also includes snacks, lunch, and a wrap-up reception at the end of the day. In the six years the event has been offered, approximately 360 classroom teachers from throughout the region have participated in the event.

## Solar Lights Shine in Galloway Underpass



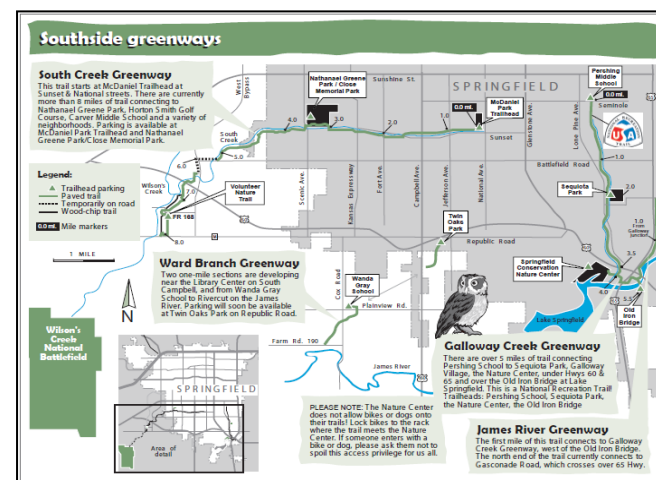
The sun is now helping shed some light inside the Battlefield Road underpass on Galloway Creek Greenway. We've now entered the world of solar lighting, thanks to the brain-power of our engineer, **Jeff Bentley**, of **Hood-Rich Architects and Engineers!** Jeff explored options and experimented until he found just the right system that would meet the needs. (Thanks, Jeff!)

The equipment was designed and purchased from, **SEPCO**, based in Florida. The system was installed by local solar advocate **Power Source Solar**. City Utilities donated the pole. Hood-Rich donated the engineering. The solar power assembly (panels, batteries, and controller) that was installed generates 170 watts with full sun, and cost about \$3200. The panels and controller should last at least 20 years; the batteries may need to be replaced sooner.

The next time you're cruising through the tunnel, let Greenways know what you think. They're also looking for a donor or two who would like to have their name attached to this new feature as well as other trail underpasses. Hopefully, they'll be able to install similar solar systems to brighten up other dim underpasses.

For more information, log onto:

[www.ozarkgreenways.org](http://www.ozarkgreenways.org)



## Fifth Annual Environmental/Conservation Education Summit Held August 18



The Fifth Annual Environmental/Conservation Education Summit was held at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center on August 18. Thirty-five delegates representing a total of thirty entities attended the half-day session.

The Summit is sponsored by Springfield/Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence and facilitated by CEE Project Coordinator Barbara Lucks.

Each organization represented had an opportunity to give updates of their projects and activities. As with previous Summits, attendees took advantage of the meeting to seek out partners for upcoming events, trade wish lists and identify projects/programs that lend themselves to collaborate efforts.

For more information, the proceedings of the Summit will be available on [www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

### US Green Building Council and LEED



The US Green Building Council – Missouri Heartland Chapter is hosting a series of study sessions through January 5, 2010 on LEED version 3, just released by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) this past June.

**LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system**, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

For more information on the  
US Green Building Council, log onto:

[www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

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## Ozark Greenways Update



### MISSOURI TRAIL SUMMIT POP QUIZ..... HOT SHOT---

What does a key note speaker, education sessions, on site workshops, professional networking and a rooster have in common--? Well, that would be the **2009 Missouri Trail Summit** hosted by the Springfield Greene County Park Board. This year was the 6<sup>th</sup> year for the summit which was officially attended by 97 Missouri professionals, and one lonely trail guy from Iowa with interest in trails, outdoor education and related park issues.

Wednesday was kicked off with Bob Searns, author and project director for Denver's Platte River Greenway delivering a thought provoking keynote message. Bob also participated in the on-site trail workshop with other summit participants that afternoon. Other attendees participated in sessions covering a wide range of trail and outdoor related issues from how to use the internet to encourage trail use, to children in nature.

Wednesday evening the Springfield Greene County Park Board teamed up with Ozark Greenways and hosted a lakeside dinner, which included trail related activities at their new Lake Springfield Boathouse where guests were able to explore trails with in Lake Springfield Park, take a ped-cab ride, or relax with friends. The highlight of the evening was the silent auction conducted by members of Missouri Parks & Recreation Association's Southwest Region. Various donated items (including the rooster) successfully raised \$900 for future education programs within the southwest region. An additional activity on Wednesday afternoon partnered Missouri Park & Recreation Association with Mediacom, Springfield's cable provider for the production of "Know Your Trails" a special edition to the Springfield Park Boards monthly program "Know Your Parks". The program was developed to be available for showing on local networks, or for local groups who might be interested in starting a trail movement in their community.

Thursday offered attendees a choice of 12 different education sessions though out the day, including an interesting presentation and opportunity to meet Bill Bryan, Missouri's new State Park Director. Some 24 hard core trail types took on the rain and cool weather on Friday to learn land stewardship and trail building skills for foot trails at Springfield's Valley Water Mill Nature Trail. This training was offered by the Outdoor Stewardship Institute,

Continue Next Column.....

and underwritten by the Department of Natural Resources-Division of State Parks. This training was offered by the Outdoor Stewardship Institute, and underwritten by the Department of Natural Resources-Division of State Parks. This was some great training and we encourage park resources professional involved with trail planning, design, construction and maintenance to seek this training in the future.

This year marks a transition for the Missouri Trail Summit. It will go on an every other year rotation allowing Missouri trail professional and others to participate in the *American Trails National Symposium*, which is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Missouri Trail Summit will return in 2021 at a Missouri community to be announced.

Thanks to our 2009 Missouri trail Sponsors:

- Ozark Greenways, Inc.
- Springfield-Greene County Park Board
- Missouri Department of Natural resources-Division of State Parks
- U.S. Forest Service, Mark twain Forest
- Bass Pro Shops

For more information on Ozark Greenways and events, log onto:

[www.ozarkgreenways.org](http://www.ozarkgreenways.org)



## Master Naturalist Conference



This fall, 30 adults completed an intensive training designed for them to volunteer in the community. The area of focus: the natural resources of Missouri. The study of glades, karst, prairies, forests, streams, wetlands, and ponds was pursued by the newest group of Springfield Plateau Chapter of Master Naturalists. Forty hours and eight weeks later, these folks are ready to assist in a variety of ways:

Conducting bird surveys on Conservation Areas, Building rain barrels, Giving fur programs to elementary students, Developing a Chapter website, Designing a river 'naturalist' trip, Conducting a stream clean-up, Developing a bear trunk, Native plant survey, Nest box construction, Invasive species control

These folks have already begun a good work and more to come in the future.

For more information on the Missouri Master Naturalists Program, visit

[www.monaturalist.org](http://www.monaturalist.org).



## Springfield Public Schools Recycling



The comingled recycling program continues to evolve and produce great results. In the month of September we recycled right around 30 tons compared to our best guess for last year same month of 3-5 tons. Landfill waste dropped from 196 tons to 165.91 looking at the same month. We continue to right size containers per school as well as assist in building stronger Green Teams throughout the district.

Hickory Hills continues to be on schedule for a January opening and they will have a green touch screen located in the lobby where you can access Green/ Leed information on the school, as well as real time data of energy use and visibility to a renewable energy array located on the Eco Terrace, comprised of a small turbine, PV panel and solar heat application. All of which will be accessible via the web. They should have their Sustainability and Energy website up and running within the month. This will provide a snapshot of what they are doing in these areas, information about projects, links, etc...More to come on this. For more information, log onto Springfield Public Schools website at:

[www.springfieldpublicschoolsmo.org](http://www.springfieldpublicschoolsmo.org)

## Partnership for Sustainability Update



The online presence of the Partnership for Sustainability continues to expand with GreenOzarks.org. An increasing web following means the Partnership reaches more people with blogs, links and events that encourage a sustainable lifestyle, and tout the efforts of the partners in the coming year. Social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook have increased the range and connection of GreenOzarks.org, allowing connections from outside sources as well as those in the community to display cutting edge technology, "eco-chic" culture, fresh ideas and new ways to form sustainable communities. These sites help the Partnership connect to others who are developing similar programs and collecting sustainability-minded ideas and share these with the community.

The Partnership continues to support Springfield Public Schools in creating models for sustainability in the district, a goal that is seeing real progress at Holland Elementary and at the LEED-certified Hickory Hills facility.

Students for Sustainability, a Partnership for Sustainability group, is continuing its recycling program at Springfield's First Friday Artwalk and its efforts with Springfield high school "Green Teams."

The Partnership is also excited to be an ongoing partner with Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions, Choose Environmental Excellence, and Drury SIFE on Ozarks Green Score. We are looking forward to seeing how the Green Score assessment tools can be used to benefit consumers and businesses in the area.

For more information, contact:

Anne Marie Rhoades at: 862-8459

For more about Ozarks GreenScore log onto:

[www.greenscore.org](http://www.greenscore.org)

## Tips on Sustainability at Work

- Pick just one day this week and ride your bike, carpool, or leave your car at home.
- Check into telecommuting, carpooling and public transit to cut mileage and car maintenance costs.
- Avoid printing out documents that easily can be read and filed electronically.
- Use both sides of each piece of paper prior to recycling.
- Use task lighting. Instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.



## Household Chemical Collection Center Hours Expand



The Household Chemical Collection Center (HCCC) opened for its first Saturday hours on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 864-2000 or 864-1904.

Hours have also been adjusted for greater convenience on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Tuesday, April 21. The Center is now open for appointments during the following hours:

Tuesdays: 7 to 10 a.m.  
Thursdays: 3 to 6 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to noon



The new Saturday hours are based on previous requests for weekend availability. Participation numbers will be monitored, reviewed, and may be adjusted with the goal of increasing the use of the HCCC.

The appointment time is for anytime during the three-hour block on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays. An exact time is not required so that citizens can have flexibility in bringing their materials to the Center. The appointments are necessary to allow Center staff to:

- 1) Be prepared for the materials being brought to the HCCC
- 2) Advise customers about the safest way to pack and transport the materials
- 3) Give customers other, perhaps more convenient, options for proper disposal/recycling of their materials; and
- 4) Maximize staff resources.

Instructional information on using the HCCC is available on the April, 2009 edition of CityBeat on TV23, the City's government access channel.

Continue next column.....

The program is available anytime on the City's Web site at: [tv23.springfieldmo.gov](http://tv23.springfieldmo.gov) and airs multiple times each day on Mediacom Channel 23. The schedule also is available on the TV23 Web page.

One of only a handful of similar facilities in Missouri, Springfield's HCCC is a drive-through facility, with most appointments taking about 5 minutes. Materials cannot come from businesses – the facility holds permits only for household wastes.

Since opening as the first permanent facility of its kind in Missouri in August, 1994, more than one million pounds of household hazardous waste have been collected at the HCCC. These materials would have otherwise been poured down drains, onto the ground or put in the trash. The recycling rate of the materials over that time is more than 90 percent. A listing of materials accepted at the HCCC is available on the City's Web site: [www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling) or by calling the Recycling Hotline at 864-1904. A printed brochure also is available.

The types of items that can be taken to the HCCC include: automotive products; home-improvement products; pesticides; household cleaners; craft materials; pool chemicals; and more.

The HCCC is part of the voter-approved Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS), which also includes the City-operated Recycling Centers, the Springfield Sanitary Landfill, the Yardwaste Recycling Center, the Information and Education Program, and the Market Development Program.

The expansion of hours at the HCCC is an outcome of the put-or-pay agreement approved between the City and the two largest, national solid waste haulers, WCA of Missouri and Allied Services. Under the agreement, the two companies will bring a specified amount of Springfield's solid waste to the Springfield Sanitary Landfill each day. This provides stable funding for the City-provided services of the ISWMS. The ISWMS is funded primarily from Landfill tipping fees and does not receive support from the City's General Fund.

For more information on the voter-approved Integrated Solid Waste Management System, please feel free to call the Recycling Hotline at: 417-864-1904 or visit the Web site:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)



## Special Event Recycling Services



### How to Recycle at Special Events

Hosting an event—big or small—from an exposition to a board meeting, you can help make it an environmentally responsible event. We can provide recycling bins that are appropriate for your occasion.

### Preparing for a Successful “Green” Event

You should mention, in advance literature, that recycling is expected at the event. Also, in any email notices or announcements you should reinforce the recycling message.

### Duties of Event Coordinator

The person responsible for planning the event needs to work with the venue staff to let them know of the recycling effort. Identify what types of materials will be recycled. Make arrangements for transporting the collected materials to the recycling center/processor. Small quantities may be transported by your volunteers to nearby City operated recycling sites.

### What We Will Furnish

- Collection bins for event space
- Plastic liner bags for bins
- Carts to transport materials from collection bins to a larger collection container
- Signage for each bin
- Assistance in installation/best placement of the bins
- Information on available recycling centers/processors
- Pick-up and delivery of collection bins may be available
- Volunteers to help service containers during large, multi-day events may be available
- Tips for promotional pieces, newsletters, and programs that give the benefits of recycling

**GREEN Your Event! We Can Help.**

**Bins Available for Checkout  
Recycling Hotline—864-1904**

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

## News from the Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)



Imagine we spread over a million pounds of a substance on our streets known to cause harm to ecosystems and risks to human health. Unfortunately, this is the case in Springfield and many other Midwestern cities. Coal tar pavement sealants, or the “black stuff” commonly applied to parking lots, roads, and driveways, contain a large amount of PAHs by weight. PAHs, or Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, are a group of chemicals including six known carcinogens.

The EAB has been carefully reviewing research about the sources of PAHs and their effect on people and the environment. A letter outlining the major findings was sent to the City and the Springfield Greene County Health Department, and both agreed we should take measures to get PAHs off of our streets. The good news is that switching to alternative products like asphalt based sealants, which are similar cost and can be applied with the same equipment, can dramatically reduce the amount of toxic PAHs. Our next step is to work with the industry and pursue a voluntary ban on coal tar pavement sealants in our community.

For more information on the Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board, visit:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/boards/](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/boards/)

### Now Available on



The following is now available on  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com):

**Dentists Go Green** – Dentists certified by Choose Environmental Excellence have completed a training course in best management practices (BMPs) for dental amalgam, which contains small amounts of mercury. Log on for a complete listing.

**The 2009-2010 Community Resource Guide**, compiled by the Interpreters Coalition of Springfield/Greene County, is now available for download.

**The 2009-2010 Environmental/Conservation Education Directory**, completed this past August after the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental/Conservation Education Summit, is now available for download.



**Missouri Environmental Education  
Association (MEEA)  
2009 Annual Conference**



**“Outdoors in the Ozarks”**

The Missouri Environmental Education Association’s thirteenth annual state conference was held for the first time in southwest Missouri on October 16 – 18. For the first time, also, the conference featured both outdoor and indoor sessions for both formal and informal environmental educators throughout the state. The site was the OTC Richwood Valley Campus, which boasts a 1.5 mile nature trail, a stream, and a pond in addition to modern classrooms and a striking atrium.

Offerings included seven field trips, five workshops, including national Leave No Trace certification, and forty sessions. Participants enjoyed several special events on Friday evening – Dutch Oven cooking and dinner, which was organized by Celeste Prussia, the Fishin’ Magicians Amy Short and Steve Craig strolling and entertaining during dinner, and a presentation by the children and teachers of the WOLF School. Saturday’s special events included the keynote speech by Loring Bullard, awards, and the Fishin’ Magicians hilarious stage show. Janice Greene was awarded the MEEA Lifetime Service Award, the MSU Students for a Sustainable Future were awarded the Student Organization Award, and Master Naturalist members and the Blue Springs watershed committee accepted organizational awards. Unfortunately, the unseasonably cold and wet October weather did not match well with some of the outdoor field trip plans, such as canoeing and kayaking!

The Conference Committee would like to thank all the dedicated SW Missouri environmental educators who presented sessions and helped in many ways.

**The Committee included:**

<b>Jill Black, Chair</b>	<b>Janice Greene</b>
<b>Erica Cox</b>	<b>Fran Fry</b>
<b>Celeste Prussia</b>	<b>Gigi Saunders</b>
<b>Melvin Johnson</b>	<b>Misty Mitchell</b>
<b>Mike Kromrey</b>	<b>Loring Bullard</b>
<b>Barbara Lucks</b>	

For more information on the  
Missouri Environmental Education Association,  
log onto:

[www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org)

**Glass Recycling Continues**



While many municipalities are abandoning glass recycling, Springfield continues to offer several options for recycling glass:

The Computer Recycling Center is now accepting glass – 866-2588. Glass is accepted at the City’s Recycling Centers: [www.springfieldmo.gov.org/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov.org/recycling) Click on “convenient recycling centers” for locations, hours, etc. or you may download the Recycling Centers / Yardwaste Recycling Center brochure under “downloads.”

Glass is accepted curbside from residences, as well. All solid waste haulers licensed to do business in Springfield are required to make the convenience of curbside recycling available to their customers. They may charge a fee and are allowed to vary pick-up dates, up to a maximum of every two weeks. Glass is included in the items (aluminum beverage containers, milk jugs, pop bottles, newsprint, glass bottle, tin/steel cans) they are required to accept.

With the announcement from several solid waste haulers that they will be offering single stream or commingled curbside service, City Council has approved the removal of glass from the required list of items only for those solid waste haulers. To date, this includes Allied Waste Services, WCA, and Automated Waste. This exemption is granted because broken glass can contaminate the other materials and, by the nature of the single stream processing, the glass has a higher risk of being broken. To view or download a copy of the “Guide to Recycling” or the Recycling Centers/Yardwaste Recycling Centers, visit:

[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)

**Downtown Glass Recycling Project**



January 1, 2009 to present glass collected totals approximately 1,700 container loads, which is the equivalent to 204,000 beer bottles kept out of the landfill. The glass is sorted and ground into a powder by the Recycling Center and shipped off to produce new bottles. Revenue generated from this operation enable the business to employ a couple college students. Currently, 20 downtown businesses participate in our program.

For more information, contact Barb Baker:  
visit: [www.itsalldowntown.com](http://www.itsalldowntown.com)

**Celebrating World Water Monitoring Day  
It Takes a Village**



Residents of Southwest Missouri enjoy beautiful creeks, streams and lakes and don’t take them for granted. A number of grass-roots organizations as well as local governments have worked together for decades to protect and preserve the quality of water in this area. This collaboration of a number of both professional and trained volunteer conservation/environmental education service providers has an established track record of working together on many projects to bring educational information and experiences to the community.

World Water Monitoring Day, 2009, was an excellent opportunity to combine celebrating with educating and a number of these organizations participated in the day’s activities. World Water Monitoring Day activities were included in the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks’ 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with kid/family-friendly activities attracting over 70 kids during the event.

For more information regarding  
World Water Monitoring Day, log onto:

[www.wwmd.org](http://www.wwmd.org)



**Watershed Committee Celebrates 25 Years!**



On Saturday, September 12, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks celebrated its 25th anniversary! This non-profit citizens group was set up in 1984 through a joint agreement between the City of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities to protect the sources of public drinking water for the Springfield-Greene County Community.

The celebration took place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Valley Water Mill Park on the north side of Springfield. Events included:

- Fun, hands-on World Water Monitoring Day Activities for Kids and Families
- Formal welcome, proclamations, and information and recognition of donors for the certified “green” Watershed Education Center currently being built at Valley Water Mill Park
- Free Lunch under the Big Tent
- Canoe Races on Valley Water Mill Lake:  
*Heat 1:* The Media (News-Leader, KSPR, KYTV, 417 Magazine)  
*Heat 2:* Government (Greene County, Willard, Ozark and Battlefield)  
*Heat 3:* Partners (Watershed Committee, James River Basin Partnership, Ozark Environmental and Water Resources Institute)

Over these many years, the Watershed Committee has worked to improve water quality by educating people who live and work in the watershed, from kindergarteners to stormwater engineers. They have used grant funds to replace failing onsite sewage systems with advanced systems more suited to our local soils and geology and assisted farmers and landowners with watershed-friendly practices.

Their largest project to date, the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park, is already providing hundreds of school children with field trips and hands-on learning about wetlands, streams and lakes. The main education building, to be discussed Saturday, will provide public meeting spaces in a LEED-certified, energy and water efficient structure.

***Clean water is a precious commodity.***

For more information on Valley Water Mill or the  
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, log onto:

[www.watershedcommittee.org](http://www.watershedcommittee.org)

**Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence—417-864-2006  
P.O. Box 8368—Springfield—MO—65801—[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)**

**Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence—417-864-2006  
P.O. Box 8368—Springfield—MO—65801—[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)**